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Bilmanis, Alfreds

... Latvia in the making (historical survey
and actual conditions) ...

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ALFR. BIHLMANS

LATVIA IN THE MAKING

(HISTORICAL SURVEY AND ACTUAL CONDITIONS)

ILLUSTRATED

Published by B. Lamey

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NOTE.

This pamphlet represents a series of articles selected from "The Latvian Economist", supplemented by a short bibliography and a map showing the position of the Baltic States among the European countries.

It should be regarded only as an introduction for students of the Baltic States, but may serve also as a guide for travellers.

The Editor.

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Map of New-Europe.

Facts about Latvia. Situated between 55°40'30" and 58°5'22" Northern latitude; between 20°58'4" and 28°14'30" Eastern longitude (Greenwich). Republic of the Baltic. Independence day 18 November. *Flag* red-white-red. *Climate:* average temperature + 6°; 550 m/m of atmospheric precipitations. *Frontiers:* Baltic sea 494 klm; Estonia 347 klm; USSR 269 klm; Poland 93 klm; Lithuania 487 klm. *Capital* Riga. Other ports: Liepāja (Libau), Ventspils (Windau). *Area:* 65,979 sq. klm (38% of forests, 28% pastures and meadows, 27% arable land). *Population* — 2,000,000, mostly protestants and catholics; 4/5 of the population agriculturists. *Railways* — 2900 klm. *Monetary unit* — the Lat = 0,2903226 grammes of pure gold (one gold franc). Rate of exchange: Ls 24:50 to the £, Ls 5:10 to the \$. *Budget* for 1925/26 Ls 147:910:703. *Exports:* flax, timber, pulp, butter, bacon, eggs, preserved fish, liqueurs, glass etc. *Imports:* machinery (agricultural), coal, iron, salf, fertilisers, textiles etc.

I.

Historical Survey.

*I. Reports of the Ancient History of Latvia and
Latvia's Relations with Ancient Nations.*

The philological and archaeological investigations of the last few years shed a new light on the period in the history of the Lettish people of which few or no written records exist, namely, on the period before the XIII century, the only records of which are contained in the Latin Chronicle of Henricus the Lett, which at the same time is the oldest chronicle referring to the Baltic lands. These philological, mythological, and folklore investigations have indisputably proved that the Letts belong to the so-called Baltic race, among whom we count also the kindred peoples, Old-Prussians, Lithuanians, and Jadzvi-gians, whose languages have common roots, most closely allied to the ancient Slavonic and Teutonic languages, being related to Greek and Latin and, particularly, to Sanscrit. Thus, to explore the original native country of the Letts and their ancient history means at the same time to follow the lot of all the Baltic nations. The investigations made hitherto have established the fact that the Letts, Lithuanians, and Prussians have occupied their present ethnographic regions since about 3000 B. C., but the development of their culture and social conditions has been comparatively slow, owing to the cold northern climate. It should be noted, however, that the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, who knew the Baltic amber knew also something about the peoples on the shores of the Baltic (pieces of Baltic amber have been recently found in the tomb of Tutankhamen). Greek (Herodotus) and Roman (Tacitus) historians, too, mention these peoples, and Arabian geographers had knowledge

of them; Roman coins of the III century and Arabian coins of the VII century have been found in Latvia. The Romans had even some knowledge of the geographical distances in the Baltic, and it is quite credible that the Baltic tribes were among those who invaded the Roman Empire about the V—VI century, as is indicated by the names of some of the leaders, e. g., "Rada Gais" (=like the wind), etc. It is further known that the Baltic peoples maintained relations with the conqueror of Italy, Theodoric. On the other hand the Balts were in contact with the Scandinavian peoples,*) whose runic stones inscribed with narratives of gallant wars against the rich country of Zemgale and whose sagas (Skala-Grimeson) sing the praises of the Lettish people. It may be assumed that the Scandinavians for some time even maintained political relations with the peoples on this side of the Baltic Sea, probably during the VIII—X centuries, an assumption which is borne out by numerous runic monuments and corroborated by the fact that the time mentioned coincides with the foundation of the Duchies of Kiev, Polotzk, and others (IX century) by the Scandinavians; later on, owing to internal troubles, the Scandinavians lost touch with the Baltic lands. It is probably that about this time the Letts acquired their knowledge of the Scandinavian runic letters, of which several proofs are preserved in the State Historical Museum of Latvia. To this time belong imported stone implements and other finds in Latvia of bronze and iron, as well as ornaments, weapons, and pieces of armour (State Historical Museum). The Lettish "pilskalni" (from the greek "polis" and Latin "colina") or "castle hills" have their origin in the same period, which seems to have had castles or fortresses, mentioned and described also by the Scandinavians. Up to the present time several hundred of these hills have been found**) and in some of them excavations have been conducted. Particularly Latgale, which is still little explored, and Rucava near Liepāja have yield-

*) Montelius, Geschichte der schwedischen Kultur, Leipzig.

**) cfr. Burgenlexikon, by K. v. Löwis of Menar, Riga, 1920.

ed abundant archaeological materials; but also in Livonia the ruins of lake-dwellings and other monuments of ancient times have been traced. The mythology of the Letts at the time in question was



Archaeological Finds in a Grave Near Priekule (III century).

fairly well developed, the sun (symbol: svastika or "fire-cross"), thunder, the oak, the lime, etc., occupying prominent positions and suggesting the conclusion that the ancient Letts had a strong pantheist inclination; the saga of "Lāčplēsis"

("Bear-slayer") and the "Līgo" song which is still sung about Whitsuntide (St. John's Day) dates also from that period.

Abundant information on the political and mental processes of these early times may be extracted from the ancient folk-rhymes ("Dainas") which have been preserved in great numbers (Krišjānis Barons has collected over 200,000 of them), from tales, legends, and proverbs; the Letts can further boast of a large number (36,000) of beautiful songs. All this is proof of a well developed culture, a striking characteristic for an Arian agricultural people like the Letts.

II. Christianity and Political Organization in the XII Century.

Christianity was not unknown in these countries. Coming into touch with the Slavs (krivitshi) from the South-East, a section of the Letts (from Tolova) at an early date learnt to know the doctrines of Byzantium (cfr. the Chronicle of Henricus). The Catholic faith spread from the North, and the Scandinavians tell us about Churches at Kolkas Rags (Domesnās) and at Daugavgrīva (St. Nicholas). This seems quite natural if we bear in mind that the Letts (then known as Zemgalians, Kourshi, Sēļi, Talavians, Latgalians) were in constant communication with the inhabitants of the Baltic shores and with their Southern neighbours. Eventually, about the XII century the Prussians, Lithuanians, and Letts had forced their way down to the sea and to a great extent assimilated the Livs (of Finnish origin; "liiv"="sand"), the local inhabitants of the coast. A similar diffusion (in the Novgorod direction) we observe later on in the XIII and XIV century in the case of the Dukes of Moscow and their people, whereas the Poles pressed down to the East (the Ukraine), and the Lithuanians expanded from the sea towards White Russia. In the XIII century, when the Germans arrived in Latvia, the country was ruled by Lettish chiefs — the "lielkungi" or "great masters," who lived in their fortified castles Satekle, Beverina, Tervete, Antine, Lielvārde, etc., which are also mentioned with due appreciation by

the chronicler Henricus, who describes the famous Lettish dukes, Rūsinš of Antina (who had a red flag with white stripes*), Tāivalds, Viesturs, Varidots, etc. The occupations of the Letts at that time consisted mainly of agriculture, cattle farming, and apiculture, and they exchanged their products against manufactured goods of Arabian, Slavonic and Scandinavian origin. Ancient Latvia, like Italy, Germany, France, and Russia, did not represent a political unit, but consisted of separate counties, each governed by a "lielkungs" or "great master." Only in the case of war did they resort to common action, which, however, was never long maintained, owing to the casual character of these wars; the latter usually continued only for a short time, because the neighbours to the North and East, the Esthonians and Lithuanians, were similarly scattered formations, whereas to the South the independent small krivitshi, or White Russian states of Smolensk, Vitebsk, Polotzk founded by the Normans or Varjags, and to the North-East the republics of Pskov and Novgorod were in a condition of gradual, slow decay. The Letts had no fear of these neighbours and frequently attacked them; the Lettish words "vergs" (slave) and "kalps" (serf) are derived from the Russian "vrag" (enemy) and "kholop" (serf), suggesting that the Letts made the Russian prisoners their slaves and servants.

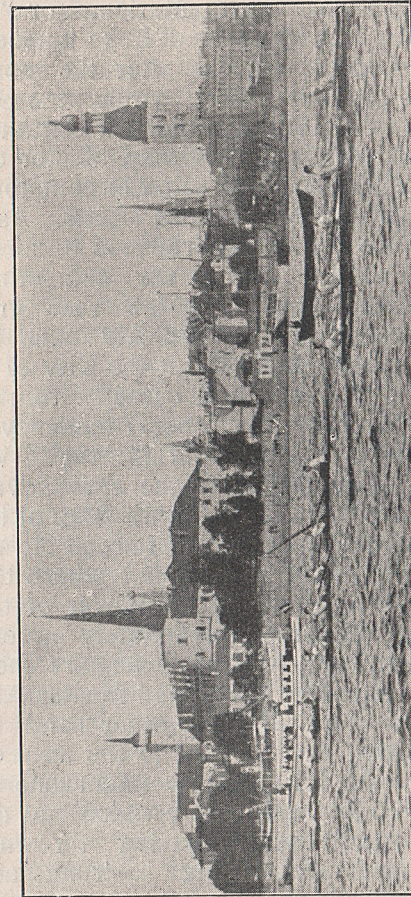
III. Latvia and Germany in the XIII Century.

Latvia's fate came from another direction. In Germany the X and XI century witnessed a rapid increase in the process of founding towns and parallel thereto a brisk development of trade, various professions, an increase of population, followed by the necessity of finding and conquering new markets. In pursuance of this object the Germans expanded towards the North Sea, as they found their way to the south barred by the Gauls and later by the French, whereas to the North-West the Dutch-Belgians, and Danes dominated and to the East — the Poles. Within a short time Bremen,

*) As reported in the old Livonian Rhyme Chronicle.

Lubeck, and Stettin were founded in the North — all of them in places formerly inhabited by Slavs. During the period of the disorders in Sweden the Germans managed even to advance into Scandinavian territory, and in the XII century we find them on the island of Gothland. Thus the Hansa of the Baltic was created and this gradually opened the sea route to the East for trade. The land of the Prussians was “colonized” at the same time by the Teutonic Order, who appeared in Prussia in the XIII century, following the request of the Poles. Only the union of the Poles and Lithuanians which ensued in the XIV century put an end to the aggressive tendencies of the Order against Poland itself which received a final blow in the battle of Tannenberg in the beginning of the XV century. The case was different in Latvia: here through the propagation and spreading of the Christian faith, by force and by cunning, the German commercial colonization was able to take root. Here, too, an Order, that of the “Brothers of the Sword,” was founded, which, however, soon suffered heavy defeat in the great battles of Saule (1236) and Durbe (1260) at the hands of the united Lettish and Lithuanian forces. The German merchants created a new “German Order” and made an agreement with the “Teutonic Order” in Prussia, founding the castle of Memel for the protection of the route of mutual communications, although the traffic between Prussia and Latvia was all the time limited to the sea. It so happened that just then the Letts were entangled in wars with the Esthonians and Lithuanians, partly also with the Russians; the Germans offered them their assistance and their promises were eventually accepted by the short sighted Letts. The Chronicle of Henricus the Lett throws many an interesting sidelight on the military co-operation of Germans and Letts against the Lithuanians and Esthonians, leading one to the conclusion that the German aid under the existing circumstances had its advantages and the united German and Lettish forces soon easily succeeded in conquering Esthonia. At the same time the German-Lettish forces beat the attacking Novgorodians (1240/41), and it

seems beyond doubt that the Letts constituted the majority of the troops, especially if we take into consideration that the Order of the Brothers of the Sword had ceased to exist in 1236. After the defeat



The Castle of Riga, Residence of the President of the State.

of the Esthonians, followed by the annexation of Esthonia, and after the conclusion of treaties with the neighbouring Russian “kniazis” the Germans suddenly turned against the strongest Lettish tribe, the Zemgalians, with whom they continued to fight for about 100 years until, after the death of the warrior Nameits, the Zemgalians surrendered.

IV. *From "Terra Mariana" till the Duchy of Courland, XIV—XVI century.*

Thus, Latvia and Esthonia were converted into the Federative State of St. Mary (Svētās Māras valsts), called also "Terra Mariana" or "The State of Livonia," which by order of Pope Innocent III was to be an episcopal diocese after the model of the Papal State of Rome. But within the State three rival forces were soon engaged in a continuous struggle, the City of Riga, the Grand Master of the Order, and the Bishop, who acted in common only in the fight against the rebellious Letts. As soon as the latter were beaten and reduced to subservience, the internal rivalry among the competing forces burst into flame again. But the real grouping of power proceeded rather quickly, and it became evident after a short time that the City of Riga was in a position to emancipate herself from the other authorities, owing to the general tendency of urban development in Europe during the XIV and XV century and thanks also to the very advantageous situation of the town. The diminishing of the authority of the Catholic Church in Europe did not fail to react on the situation in Livonia, where the Bishop gradually lost ground and the power of the Grand Master of the Order proportionately increased; the latter was gradually trying to acquire the position of a secular ruler like the Grand Master Albrecht of the Prussian Order. On the other hand, the international position with regard to the adjacent countries had by the XVI century undergone considerable changes. In the North, Sweden had developed into an important country having thrown off the Danish rule and manifesting a strong aggressive inclination towards the opposite shore of the Baltic Sea. In the South, the powerful Polish royal republic flourished, especially when ruled by the dynasty of the Lithuanian Jagailo. In the East the Grand Duke of Moscow had shattered the Tartar countries and then done away with the independence of the small states of Novgorod, Pskov, Smolensk, Polotzk, etc. Consequently the Livonian State became a neighbour of the imperialist rulers of Mos-

cow; and eventually three powers, driven by different motives, advanced their claims to the possession of Livonia: Sweden with a view to protecting Finland and Karelia, Moscow — aiming at an outlet to the sea for the trade of Novgorod, and Poland trying to weaken Russia and to safeguard herself against Moscow. The first aggressive attempt came from Moscow, who in order to paralyse Sweden, made terms with Sweden's enemy, the Danes. Magnus, brother of King Frederick II, was offered by John the Terrible the kingdom of Livonia under the condition that Moscow's sovereignty should be recognized. The Swedes, however, succeeded in occupying Reval earlier than John the Terrible, and then they set about conquering Ingria, the Danes being left with only the Sāmu Island. John the Terrible then hurried towards Riga, but here he clashed with the Poles, although it was difficult to induce the latter to come to Livonia's assistance; the negotiations were procrastinated because of the exaggerated demands of the Poles. Meanwhile the Muscovites began to plunder Livonia, creating a rapidly increasing panic which eventually induced the City of Riga to approach the German Emperor Rudolf II, successor to Karl V; Rudolf advised Riga to adhere to the Swedes and not to strengthen Poland, who represented a constant menace to Austria. Nevertheless, Germany on her own behalf was seeking the friendship of Moscow, and Karl V had even entered into negotiations with the latter regarding a common war against the Turks. He went so far even as to send several hundred military instructors to Moscow, but Riga would not permit them to pass, and this was a new affront to Moscow. Similar to Rudolf II, his successor Maximilian II advised Livonia to seek Swedish protection, but for his own part refused to send any assistance. The adherence of the City of Riga to Sweden would have been an easy matter, thanks to the natural commercial gravitation, but unfortunately the "Hinterland" of the town was in the hands of the Order, and the Grand Master Gotthard Kettler was framing his own schemes. It had become evident by this time that the conversion of the Livonian bishopric into a

secular duchy was inevitable; Bishop Wilhelm von Brandenburg (brother of the Kurfürst) invited the Duke of Mecklenburg to become his "coadjutor." Thus there were two claimants to Livonia, Magnus of Denmark and Christoph of Mecklenburg. Under these circumstances the Grand Master Kettler made terms with Poland (1561), accepting the same conditions as the Prussian Grand Master Albrecht, viz., to recognize Polish sovereignty over the whole of Livonia and to receive for his part the Duchies of Courland and Zemgale as his feudal lands. The remaining part of Livonia, the so called Transdunavian Duchy, fell to Poland with the exception of Riga, which surrendered only later.

V. *Courland's Prosperity (1561—1795).*

The newly created Duchy of Courland developed into a state of great prosperity, especially under the rule of Duke Jacob (a god-son of the English King James, XVII century), who concluded treaties with France and England, and even founded colonies on Tabago island in America and St. Andrew's island on the African coast. The flag of Courland, a black crawfish in a red field, proudly flew at the masthead of many heavily armed ships in the Atlantic. Only afterwards, in the XVIII century was Courland involved with unfortunate consequences in the wars between Poland and Sweden on the one hand and Sweden and Russia on the other, only when the Russian Princess Anna became for a time Duchess of Courland (till 1730) did Courland again see peaceful times. Industry also developed in Courland and there were even some gunfoundries and other large factories. During the XVIII century a great development of the arts is noticeable in Courland: the famous Rastrelli built the castles of Jelgava (the capital of Courland) and Rundale; operas and ballets were founded in Jelgava, and a freemasons' lodge was also inaugurated there. In 1710 Duke Frederick II of Courland founded the "Ordre de la Reconnaissance" which was conferred as a sign of appreciation on many citizens of Courland. Courland further was in close touch with the intellectual life of France, and after the French Revolution

among other famous emigrants who sought refuge in Jelgava was the Count of Provence, brother of Louis XVI, who later ascended the restored throne of France as Louis XVIII.

The partitioning of Poland which took place in 1795, however, forced the Couronian nobility, who feared a spreading of the revolt of Polish peasants, from Lithuania to Courland, to surrender to the Russians. The Dukes of Courland were compelled to emigrate, and their successors, the Dukes of Biron



The Castle of Rundale.
The President's Summer Residence, a Work of Rastrelli.

(Duc de Biron), are still living abroad; one of them has recently been engaged in a law-suit concerning the palace of the Russian Embassy in Berlin, which, as a matter of fact, was the property of the Dukes of Courland.

VI. *Latvia and Polish-Swedish Rivalry in the XVI and XVII Centuries.*

The history of the remaining part of Latvia is devoid of the brilliance which we observed in Courland. Returning to the point from which we started it must be stated that Kettler with good purpose had divided the Livonian State, being influenced by purely egoistic motives, but he succeeded also in

appeasing the nobility by bargaining for her from Poland the "privilegium Sigismundi."

It should be remembered that this period coincides with the expansion of the reformation in Livonia, a process which converted the nobility from tenants into landowners, but could not influence their moral standard. They treated the peasants with the utmost contempt and cruelty. The position of the peasants improved only under Swedish rule. The Swedes, as stated above, had prevented the occupation of Reval by John the Terrible and thence advanced on Dorpat. The Poles for their part had finally occupied Livonia (Vidzeme) and Latgale in 1582, which they were able to defend against the Russians, to whom they administered a decisive defeat in the beginning of the XVII century when internal troubles had broken out in Russia.

Still, neither Sweden nor Poland were capable of exploiting the chaotic position in Russia, but started quarrelling among themselves. The position was that in 1587 Sigismund Wasa, a son of the Swedish King John and Katharina Jagelonika, had come to the Polish throne (till 1632); he also inherited the Swedish throne, losing it again very soon because of his intention to reestablish catholicism in Sweden (the same plan was carried out by the Poles — and with better success — in Latvia). The Swedes elected as their ruler Duke Karl of Wasa, uncle of Sigismund, whose son is the famous Gustav Adolf. Consequently, the relations between Poland and Sweden become very strained in spite of the proposal of Gustav Adolf to cede Esthonia to Poland, should the latter accord him *de jure* recognition. This offer was rejected by Vladislav IV, son of Sigismund. In the course of the XVII century the possibility arose for the Polish dynasty to occupy the Russian throne, which would have made Poland the most powerful state in Europe and justified the sacrifices made to secure the friendship of France. Sweden prevented the realization of this plan by supporting the candidature of Mikhail Romanov to the throne of the Tsars (1613).

Eventually Sweden succeeded in conquering the whole Livonian State (Riga 1621). making good use

of the difficult position of Poland created in consequence of the revolt in the Ukraine, the Turkish advance, and the new war with Moscow; only the Couronian Duchy was left untouched, and Latgale (the "Inflants," derived from "Liflant") remained with Poland. Gustav Adolf also occupied the whole of Prussia and, in accordance with a secret treaty with France, subsequently advanced still farther into Germany. It is significant that his successor, Karl Gustav (1655), even raised the question of dividing up Poland among Sweden, Hungary and Brandenburg. Poland, however, revived and was able to conclude an alliance against Sweden with Peter the Great. This happened towards the end of the XVII century, when the gallant king Karl XII was ruler of Sweden.

VII. The Good Swedish Times (1621—1721).

From the point of historical faith the rule of the Swedes in Latvia deserves to be set in a prominent position. The Swedish Kings, beginning with Gustav Adolf, are regarded as the benefactors of the Lettish peasants. As a matter of fact, it was their intention to liberate the peasants from serfdom, reducing at the same time the prerogatives and privileges of the nobility. Thanks to the liberal Swedish spirit and to the truly democratic traditions of Sweden, the light of culture began to spread in this country: courts were established, churches, schools, consistories founded, a secondary school and even a university — in Dorpat — were opened. The administration, in a state of feudal torpidity, was reorganized, and the autocratic ways of the nobility limited through Swedish governors. The taxes of the peasants were standardized and fixed in special registers. For this purpose registers of assessment were introduced and taxes in kind or services translated into money (Talers), on the basis of a standard of landed property, which prevented the barons from collecting more from a certain area than was the fixed amount in "Talers." Simultaneously, the Swedish government carried out the so called "reduction," i. e. the rights and titles of the nobility were subjected to a control which revealed

the fact that 5/6 of the "feudal" land had been acquired in an illegal way. One can easily imagine the anger and protests of the nobility, and one understands the treacherous action of its representatives in the beginning of the XVIII century, personified in the name of Patkul. The humane policy of the Swedes towards Latvia was crowned by the translation of the Bible into Lettish, undertaken on the directions of the Swedish Government by a local German pastor named Glück (whose beautiful foster-daughter, Katerina, a Lett, became the wife of Peter the Great). The paper for the printing of the bibles was imported from Sweden. All these benevolent influences greatly increased the economic prosperity of the country and raised the productivity of the land, so that Latvia was even able to export rye, wheat, flax, tow, hides, and linseed, the number of ships annually entering and clearing the Latvian ports rising to 1000. Riga traded briskly with the English, Dutch, French, and other nations. Through Riga also went the Polish trade and the transit traffic with Moscow.

VIII. The Invasion of Vidzeme (Livonia) by the Russians.

This happy and prosperous development was suddenly interrupted by the war between Sweden and Russia which lasted till 1721, terminating with the Peace of Nystad. During the war the land was devastated by Swedish, Russian, Saxon, and Polish troops, as it happened that Livonia was one of the chief theatres of the war. Again it was the fatal destiny that Poland happened to be on the side of Russia, helping her to destroy the Swedish forces, although it was by no means in the interest of Poland to support the expansion of Russia. In any case Russia robbed Poland of the Ukraine, and then helped Austria and Germany to desintegrate Poland. After the war Livonia, Ingria and Southern Karelia came under Russian sovereignty, whereas Courland remained independent and the "Inflants" (Latgale) under Polish regime.

Internal troubles in Russia and successive court

revolutions in the XVIII century prolonged for some time the fate of Poland, but with the accession of the German princess, Catharine II, to the throne of Russia, the fate of Poland was sealed. After the annexation of the shores of the Black Sea, Catharine in 1772 turned against Poland and, in spite of gallant resistance and continuous revolts, the latter



National Costumes.

was finally partitioned at the end of the century, in consequence of which also Courland and Latgale came under Russian rule.

IX. The "Paradise" of the Nobility in Latvia (1721—1914).

Now Latvia was again united, but under foreign rule, and a hard rule, too, which soon reduced the country and its population to a position equally miserable in the spiritual, physical, and material sense. The nobility naturally rejoiced when Peter the Great annulled the decisions of the Swedish

Commission of Reduction and returned their lands to them. It is obvious that this fact could only produce a very sad reaction on the position of the peasants, and they drifted into a situation which was in no sense better than that of the Russian serfs: in particular the situation of the peasants became unbearable towards the end of the reign of Catharine II who, though a "liberal" and a "philosopher" in the face of Europe, was really the prototype of an autocratic and demoralized Asiatic sovereign, a courtesan on the throne. From this side the Letts could expect nothing. True the enlightened views which just then were characteristic for the West found some adherents among the Baltic nobility (Baron Schulz), who tried to improve the position of the peasants. Garlieb Merkel 1796 wrote a treatise*) against the oppression and exploitation of the peasants in Latvia,* which was bought up and burnt by the barons... But stronger than the spiritual progress and the new liberal ideas of the West were the indisputable facts of economic development in Europe, and the revolutionary peasantry here and there already began to raise their heads.

X. The Agrarian Reform of the Nobility in 1819.

The growing influence of the ideas of the French Revolution was viewed with apprehension in St. Petersburg, and it was found necessary to resort to preventive tactics. Alexander I through the local governor-general, the Marquis of Paulucci, promised the Baltic peasants (who were closest to Europe) liberation from serfdom, and in 1804 a Law was actually passed in St. Petersburg, according the peasants freedom and land. The Baltic nobility hastened, however, to carry through their own scheme, which though liberating the peasants from serfdom, gave them no right to the land (1819), but compelled them to buy it from the nobles. Besides, the nobility continued to enjoy their mediaeval privileges in respect to fishing and hunting rights,

*) Appeared in a new edition in 1924.

the patronate, police, etc. This state of social organization remained in force until the beginning of the XX century and only shortly before the war was a scheme of limited local administration discussed, stipulating that only landowners should participate in the management of local affairs; their number was very small as the barons were averse to selling their land. The nobles only had the right of establishing rural industrial enterprises, such as mills, breweries, smithies, etc.; they alone were entitled to keep inns, which they leased against high payment.

XI. Economic and Political Revival. The Revolution of 1904/05.

In the course of the abovementioned social and political processes the Lettish peasant in the main had been converted into a class of farming hands or tenants, renting land from the barons; they had no rights and no prospects of improving their position. Only the development of industry in the towns towards the end of the XIX century presented a chance to the landless of escaping starvation and a movement began of the rural proletariat to the towns. Gradually, however, thanks to general co-operation, economy, and the activity of the mutual savings banks, part of the landless were able to acquire small holdings. In the towns the prosperity of the Letts grew, too, and under the leadership of their ablest sons they founded the Lettish Society in Riga, a most important factor in the further promotion of national aspirations. The Lettish press, theatres, etc., were established; in some of the municipal councils the Lettish citizens obtained a majority; Lettish officers commanded units of the army; Lettish ministers, teachers, and lawyers began to work in constantly increasing numbers. With reverence the Lettish people remember the names of their first leaders Kronvalds, Valdemārs, Kalning, father of the famous finance minister, Ringold Kalning.

Parallel to this peaceful development, a more radical tendency steadily grew and eventually, in

1904/05, the revolution broke out, in the course of which the independence of Latvia was proclaimed for the first time. Russia was forced to send a whole army and to occupy Latvia anew, stubborn resistance being offered in every corner of the country. In this reaction and the subsequent executions, the local nobility played a prominent part. The position of the Lettish peasant remained unaltered, and even the institute of the Russian "zemstvos" was not introduced in the Baltic provinces.

XII. The World War and the Liberation of Latvia.

The year 1914 marked the beginning of a new period of suffering and sorrow for Latvia, as the border countries of Russia, Poland and Latvia, became the central theatre of war operations. But the war had one great achievement: in 1915 Latvia was given the right to organize her own national army, sanctioned by Tsar Nicolas II, who thus renounced an important prerogative for the benefit of the Lettish nation. The newly created army fighting on the Daugava front exhibited qualities and a spirit of gallantry such as appears only from time to time in the history of the world; every Lett knew that he was fighting for the future of his people. Even should the Russian revolution not have happened, Latvia was assured of her liberty, the national Lettish army being the guarantee of her political independence. The events of 1917 helped to accelerate the course of history: on November 11th, 1918, Great Britain (and in the following April and May, also the other Allied Governments) recognized the sovereign power of the Latvian State as vested in the Latvian National Council, and on November 18th, 1918, the Independent Republic of Latvia was proclaimed. But Latvia's ordeal was not yet at an end: at the end of 1918 the Bolsheviks invaded Latvia and the region which actually remained under the national government was narrowed to Liepāja and the Western part of Courland; yet, in May, 1919, Riga was liberated by the national army with the assistance of the local Germans (Balts), and the legal Government with M. K. Ulmanis at its head



Carrying out the Agrarian Reform.

succeeded, with co-operation from Poland and Esthonia, in driving the Bolsheviks out of the whole territory of Latvia. Once more dark clouds accumulated over the horizon of Latvia in November, 1919, when she was invaded by the Bermont-Avalov forces, whose intention was to restore the monarchy in both Russia and Germany. Here again the Lettish troops, assisted by the Allies, were victorious, and in an admirable spirit of unanimity under most trying circumstances, with unprecedented sacrifices, they forced the adventurers to retreat before the iron Lettish army under the command of their beloved leader, General Balodis. Subsequently, on May 1st, 1920, the Latvian Constituent Assembly was summoned, who elected as their president the Chairman of the National Council, M. Jānis Čakste, who in 1922 became the first President of the Republic. On July 15th, 1920, a treaty of peace between Latvia and Germany was signed, followed by a similar treaty with Soviet Russia (August 11th, 1920). One of the first and fundamental tasks of the Constituent Assembly was the adoption of the Agrarian Law, doing away with the historical injustice and giving back to the Latvian peasant what he was entitled to, the land of his fathers. This important Law was followed by a series of no less important legislative measures, and eventually the Constitution of the Republic was passed and promulgated, followed by the first parliamentary elections in 1922. In the meantime, Latvia had been recognized *de jure* by the Supreme Council of the Great Powers on January 26th, 1921, and admitted that same autumn to the League of Nations. In 1922 the United States of America also recognized Latvia *de jure*. Latvia commenced to regulate her foreign relations, and a number of treaties, conventions, and agreements with foreign countries were signed, among which the Trade Agreement with Great Britain occupies an important position. Latvia is also busy in fostering an alliance of the Baltic States, and a series of conferences have been held with that object in view. The first step in this direction is the defensive alliance and the economic and

customs union with Esthonia, signed on November 1st, 1923. In 1923 the financial reform was carried out, and the new currency created, the Lat (or gold franc) which is based on gold. The organization of the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the country proceeded to develop satisfactorily, and the work of reconstruction was conducted with great zeal and energy. Latvia has now her University, Academy of Arts, Conservatory, Opera, theatres. Agriculture is briskly developing, and industry is also gradually reviving. Latvia has begun to pay her debts and to accumulate wealth without any financial aid from abroad.

Thus, the Lettish people have regained their independence through their own determination and confidence in their own strength and patriotism.

II.

Actual Conditions

(Or what a Foreigner should see in Latvia and how to see it).

The traveller who intends to visit our country and to stay here for some time is advised to secure a map of Latvia, a guide book, and, if possible, a dictionary or a grammar of the Lettish language, although he will be able to manage with English, German, or French which are widely understood and spoken, especially in the towns. Particularly he is advised to consult a Latvian representative abroad before starting on his trip, in order to get the necessary information about travelling, passport, and other formalities. The Latvian diplomatic and consular officers may also supply applicants with a fairly large number of informative publications in all European languages, give addresses, and establish connections with institutions or persons, if so desired. These preliminary steps will greatly help to smooth the travellers sojourn in Latvia. It should be mentioned that exchange offices are established at all frontier stations to enable the foreigner to exchange small amounts of money into Latvian currency, the Lat, or gold franc (the average rate of exchange is £ 1 = Ls 24, \$ 1 =

Ls 5.10), whereas the exchange of larger sums should be effected in Riga.

You may reach Latvia either from *Warsaw via Zemgale*, crossing the river Daugava (Dvina) and passing the ancient castles of Daugavpils (Dvinsk), Gercika, and Koknese on your way to Riga; or from *Berlin via Eydtkuhnen, Kovno, and Meitene*, crossing the beautiful plains of Courland, where to the right and left you observe rich fields, big forests, and the red roofs of farms; after a short stop at tea time in Jelgava (Mitau), the ancient capital of the Courish Dukes, you reach Riga. Those who arrive from *Helsingfors via Reval* have the opportunity of seeing hilly Livonia; leaving Esthonia at Valk the trains runs through Valmiera (Wolmar), Cēsis (Wenden) — beautiful towns with historic traditions — and the “Livonian Switzerland” around Sigulda (Segewold), and thence to Riga. All routes lead to Riga, which you can also reach *from the East via Moscow and the Latvian frontier station, Zilupe*, leaving wonderful Sebeža behind. This route leads through romantic Latgale with her deep and clear lakes, reflecting churches and catholic monasteries, where the pre-historic water-nut still grows and where the fields bear the world famous varieties of Latvian flax.

You may reach Latvia also by sea, coming from New-York, London, Stettin, Ghent, Havre, Dunkirk, etc., and arriving at the ports of *Liepāja* (Libau) and *Ventspils* (Windau), which are ice-free the whole year round, or, again, at the central Baltic port of Riga. Here the traveller's attention should be directed to the 10-kilometre shore of Liepāja, the huge elevator at Ventspils, and the Riga industrial district, which opens out into an impressive panorama as you enter the port of Riga from the sea.

The first thing to do in Riga is to secure dwelling accomodation, which may be arranged at one of the following hotels: “St. Petersburg,” “Rome,” “Imperial,” “Komercc,” “Bellevue,” and other hotels or boarding houses. Travellers who are staying in Riga only for a short time do better in choosing a hotel; and only if you intend to remain for a longer period is it advisable to go to a boarding house, as

to the character of which you should make previous enquiries. Those who desire peace and comfort are directed to the Hotel St. Petersburg at the Pils laukums (Castle Square) opposite the Castle of the State President. The Castle also contains the State Ethnographical and Art Museum (open 10—3), the editorial office of the “Valdības Vēstnesis” (official gazette), and the residence of the “Society of Explorers of the Homeland” (Dzimtenes vēstures pētītāju biedrība). The Bank of Latvia with the



Bee-keeping School in Vecbebri.

editorial office of the “Latvian Economist” (business hours from 9—3) is also located on the Castle Square; the State Library, the National Theatre, and the House of Parliament (Saeima) are all in the near vicinity, opposite the latter stands the Church of St. Jacob. The Hotel de Rome is situated in a thronged business thoroughfare opposite the National Opera House and near the Central Post and Telegraph Office. Opposite the latter is the Hotel de Commerce and on the other bank of the Canal near the Central Railway Station — the Bellevue Hotel.

The distances in Riga are not great; thus, for instance, from the Station to the Rome or St.-Petersbourg Hotel you have to pay the cabman Ls 1.— (at night double the amount), the tax of the luggage porter is 50 centimes. A room in a hotel costs from

Ls 3.— to Ls 6.—, bath — Ls 1.50, breakfast — Ls 1.—. Lunch and dinner should be taken at the hotel or at the fashionable but modest restaurant "Otto Schwarz" on the Aspazijas Boulevard or the "Mazais Vērmanis dārzs" (opposite the "Lielais Vērmanis dārzs" at the corner of Elizabetes and Tērbatas iela), which is the favoured meeting place of Lettish society. Prices are not high, and a good lunch may be had for Ls 2.—; some of the specialties of the hotels in Riga are: Double Kümmeļ, Dau-gava salmon, chicken, cider, and beer.

Passport and visa formalities may be left to the hotel porter, who will also procure tickets to the opera, theatre, operette, etc., if desired.

Similar to Riga, Liepāja commands a number of hotels ("Petrograd" and others), and in Ventspils, Jelgava, Cēsis, and other provincial towns, a clean and comfortable room may always be got without difficulty. It should be mentioned here that nearly all European countries and the United States of America have diplomatic and consular representatives in Riga (some of them also in Liepāja), the addresses being given in the telephone directories or in the numerous Riga guide-books or almanacs. These representatives can always be consulted on questions concerning the respective traveller; another source of general information is the Press Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Valdemāra iela 3, fl. 5. (lift) from 10—1), which gives gratuitous advice to foreign travellers and which may be consulted also by post on various questions. Scientists should not fail to apply to the University (Raiņa bulvārs 19), business men — to the Society of Latvian Merchants (Kēmerējas ielā 3) or to the Exchange Committee (Pils ielā 24), industrialists — to the Industrial Association (Fabrikantu biedrība), cooperators — to the "Konzums" (Dzirnavu ielā 68), agriculturists — to the Central Association of Latvian Agriculturists (Baznīcas ielā 4a), artists — to the Art Agency (Mākslas aģentūra); the proper Governmental Departments and Ministries also supply ample information and explanations. Journalists who stay in Latvia for a longer time are

supplied with certificates by the Press Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; they may also receive free railway tickets and other facilities in their work. The Press Section has its own cinematograph, radio station, and a permanent exhibition of Latvian goods. Samples have been arranged there for the convenience of foreign visitors. Journalists should also visit the Latvian Telegraph Agency ("Leta," Krišjāņa Barona ielā 4a) and the Latvian Press Club. Sportsmen interested in shooting and fishing find cordial reception at the Hunting Club (Mednieku klubs).

So much about affairs; if time permits the traveller should take a look at Riga itself, which may be managed even in the spare hours between trains. For this purpose the trams (14 centimes for all distances), motorbuses (20 cent.), river steamers (10—30 cent.), or cabs (Ls 2.— per hour) may be used, but the most convenient way is to hire a motor at the Central Garage (Telephone 2-14) or near the Opera House, at a tax of 15.— to Ls 16.— per hour or — in case of a more distant trip, say to Jelgava (40 klm.), the "Livonian Switzerland" (Sigulda — 50 klm.), the "Strand" (25 klm.) — at the rate of 70 centimes per kilometre. To the Strand also runs a bus line (departing at the beginning of the Brīvības Boulevard), and the fare is Ls 2.—.

In order to facilitate orientation it should be remembered that Riga lies on both banks of the Daugava and that principal streets lead to the Daugava quay (Valdemāra*) iela, Brīvības**) iela, Krišjāņa Barona***) iela, etc.). The part of the town lying on the right bank is divided by a canal, which forms a side arm of the main river. The part between the Canal and the Daugava is called the "old" city which is connected with the "new" city by numerous bridges; on both sides the canal is lined by pleasure grounds and boulevards. In the "old" part of the town are concentrated the churches, banks, Opera House, Parliament, the City, the Exchange, the House of the

*) From K. Valdemar, the Father of the Latvian Navy.

**) Liberty Street.

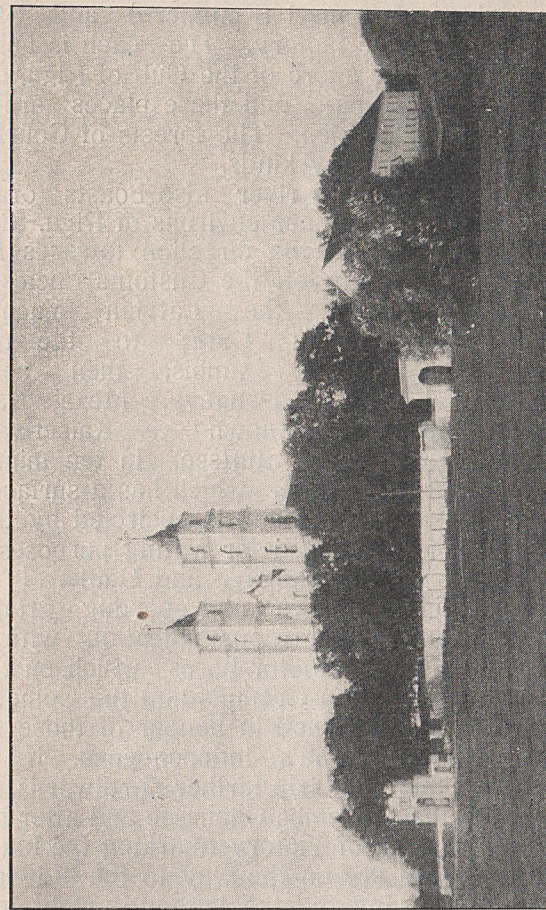
***) The collector of Latvian "dainas" (folksongs).

Black Heads, the Town Council, Guildhalls, Citadel, Customs House, Powder Tower with War Museum, and the Castle, near which is located the English Church (The Factory Church of St. Saviour). Opposite the Opera House on the other side of the Canal stands the University and a few yards away, the Conservatory. The banks are principally situated on the Smilšu iela, at the end of which stands the Exchange Building. The central street of the city is the Kalku iela, with the most fashionable shops. The continuation of the latter is the beautiful Brīvības Boulevard, the evening-promenade dear to the hearts of the Riga people. The hotels mentioned above and the "Otto Schwarz" restaurant are also situated in "Old Riga," which has been called so because it represents the site of mediaeval Riga and still contains a great number of very old buildings. The diplomatic quarter lies in "New-Riga," in the vicinity of the Foreign Office and the Strēlnieku Dārzs (Garden of the Officers' Club). There also is the Museum of the City of Riga (open 9—3) and the Esplanade for military parades.

Three big bridges connect the right shore of the Daugava with the suburbs on the left, and over them lies the way to Courland (Jelgava, Tukums, Liepāja) and the Strand. Crossing the bridges we see to the left the Upper Daugava, thronged with rafts, and in clear weather the Doles (Dahlen) Island may be seen, where the famous rapids await utilization for power. In this part of the town lie the Great Synagogue, the Red Warehouses, the traditional lumber market, which is held every Sunday, and still farther, at the end of the Moscow Street, — the porcelain factory of Kuznetzov.

Looking to the right you view the port of Riga with Mīlgrāvis and Daugavgrīva in the far background. The part of the suburb immediately joining the bridge is called Āgenskalns (Hagensberg), and you observe there the tower of the Riga Yacht-club. Then comes Torņkalns (Torensberg), Zaslauks — garden suburbs extending far westwards to Daugavgrīva with its fortress and the high white beacon. On the left lie the Spilve meadows with the aerodrome; here a couple centuries

ago Charles XII of Sweden beat the Saxons. Daugavgrīva may be reached also by steamer, leaving from the right quay, as may be reached also Jelgava and the Strand.



Church and Monastery at Aglona. The Catholic Archbishop's Summer Residence.

Continuing one's journey along the left bank, a beautiful panoramic view of Riga opens out near the Church of St. Martin. Thence the way leads to the Strand, crossing the Lielupe and at 20 klm. arriving at Bulduri with the hotel and casino of Neiland, at which the first conference of the Baltic States was held in 1920. The next sea-side resort is Edin-

burga (named in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh) with its pretty "Kurhaus." The plain white beach sheltered by fir woods continues for several kilometres parallel to the densely populated townlets of Majori, Dubulti, Melluži, and Asari, to the famous sulphur springs of Ķemeri (Kemmeren) and Sloka with its big cellulose factory. The beach is unbroken along the whole shore of the Gulf of Riga, over Kolkas Rags to Liepāja, and these places are the domains of the fishermen. The forests of Courland abound in game of many kinds.

The right side of the river also boasts of picturesque places, in the near environs of Riga. Starting from the Castle in the direction towards Milgrāvis, we pass on our left the Customs Enclosure, the Export Harbour, the Latvian Yachting Club in the Andrēja Osta; to the right we see the Ganību Dambis, then comes the so called "Red" Daugava, Meža Parks (Waldpark, formerly known as Kaiserwald), and the lake Ķīšezers or Stintsee. In ten minutes we are already at the lake, which has a surface of several square kilometres and is encircled by thick firewoods; it is connected for rafting purposes by canals with the rivers Daugava and Gauja. In the Meža Parks dainty houses and sporting grounds are situated, and regular communication with the town is maintained by motor buses which on their way pass the Exhibition Grounds and the Cemetery of the Brotherhood, named in honour of those who fell in the war for Latvia's independence. If you decide to continue your trip farther northwards, you must drive to the Vidzemes Chaussee and after having passed the Arch of Victory (marking the boundary of Riga), you are on the way to the "Livonian Switzerland," leaving to the left and right large forests and several small lakes.

The "Livonian Switzerland" with its centre, the Gauja valley, is one of the most beautiful spots in Latvia. You should first of all see Sigulda, whence you can go by a ferry boat (over the Gauja) to Turaida (Treyden) and Krimulda (Kremon), with their romantic ruins of XIII century castles and other picturesque places. In the "Journalists Castle" at

Sigulda a boarding house is run (moderate prices, telephone to Riga) the whole year round. You can go there also by train from Riga (1 hour) and from the Sigulda station — by cab or a sort of jaunting car (Ls 1.—) to the castle. On the left bank of the Gauja beyond Sigulda the Ligat Paper Mills are situated, which have a wide reputation for the finer classes of paper produced here. Then you come to the 700 year old Cēsis whose gallant inhabitants in the XVI century rather than submit to John the Terrible, blew themselves up together with their whole fortress. In the vicinity of Cēsis the Agricultural College of Priekuli is situated; in another direction rises the Mystic Blue Hill where the ancient Letts made sacrifices to their gods. The adjacent hilly district offers many interesting possibilities to archaeologists, as here a great number of the ancient "castle hills" are to be found; excavations which began only recently have yielded important results, and a large number of ornaments, implements, arms, etc., have been found, and are on view at the Historical Museum in Riga (at the Castle).

The next town after Cēsis is Valmiera, and hence the highroad runs to Valka, where it crosses the Esthonian frontier. On the whole way to the right and left you observe farms, old and new, on the pastures herds of brown cattle, the typical rural landscape of Latvia. If you have time, you should see the great dairy farm at Smiltene (one of Latvia's chief export articles is butter). Thence you should go to Piebalga, the ancient centre of Lettish culture (also a flax centre), and through Jaunpils, Mālpils, and Alaži on a good road you come again into the Vidzemes highroad (near Inčukalns), and back to Riga. It is of interest to drop in at some farm and see how the Lettish farmer lives. You will notice that each family lives separately, and there are no villages similar to those in the Slav countries. Each farm has its name, which is attached to the family of the owner.

Another pleasant tour is to Ogre and Koknese up the Daugava; these places are also well frequented summer resorts with large forests. The famous

Staburags, a limestone rock of which many old tales are told, the Koknese Rapids, and others belong to the attractions of this district.

The rural explorations require time, therefore it is advisable to leave early in the morning and to sacrifice at least one day to each object. The railway time-table always permits a return in the evening of the same day.

Those who stay in Riga for a longer time should not fail to see the old gothic churches dating principally from the XIII and XIV centuries: the Māra or Dome Church is famous for its architecture, the inner colonnade, and its great museum. The Archbishops of Riga, beginning with Bishop Albert, the founder of the town (1201 A. D.), are buried in this church. The Church of St. Peter has a beautiful portal, its interior is decorated with the coats-of-arms of the ancient Baltic barons, and its wooden spire, which is the highest of its kind in Europe (440 feet), in spite of a deviation of 70 cm. from the perpendicular, still stands firm. Organ concerts are held every Saturday at the Dome Church, and they are always well attended. There is no fixed entrance fee. The very ancient Church of St. John is hidden among the warehouses and quaint buildings of the old city; the deep cellars of the church have served as shelter for persons and goods in times of danger. Of similar historic interest is the Church of St. Jacob, the seat of the Catholic Archbishop. The House of the Blackheads, opposite the Town Council House, should not be omitted; on the square before the Council House stands a statue of Roland, which means that the City of Riga had the right to pass sentences of death. In the House of the Blackheads (which derives its name from a bachelor merchants' association which traded with foreign countries), the peace treaty between Poland and Soviet Russia was signed in 1921, and the building thus marks an important moment in Europe's modern history. Many curious things are stored in the House, such as, for instance, a shoe of the Russian empress, Anna, which she forgot after a dance, pictures of Swedish sovereigns, the famous silver treasure, etc. At present the building serves for con-



Latvian Artillery (British Guns).

certs and official gatherings. The Town Hall stands opposite the House of the Blackheads and is decorated by 63 guns sunk into the foundations of the building. The Town Library contains numerous historic documents of great value, of which we would mention the treaties of the City of Riga with Smolensk, Novgorod, and the Polish Kings; autographs and letters of Martin Luther, Herder (who was director of the library for some time), Richard Wagner (who was conductor at the Riga Opera), and other famous personalities who have lived in Riga. After you have inspected the Guildhalls and refreshed yourself at the "St. John's Cellar," you turn towards the Castle, the ancient residence of the "Sword Brethren," and at present the residence of the State President. The inner portal of the Castle bears the relief of the famous Master of the Order, and the conqueror of Pskoff, Walter Plettenberg. The State Historical Museum and the State Art Museum are also domiciled in the Castle. The former contains very valuable finds of various excavations, among them Roman coins of the III century and Arabian coins dating from the VII century. The ethnographic section of the museum is interesting on account of its copious collection of various clothing, household and other articles, and old Lettish writings in runic letters. Genuine Lettish national dress is still worn in Rucava, near Liepāja. In the environs of that town also lies the so-called "Village of the Kings" (Kēniņciems), where descendants of the former Courish kings are now living the life of ordinary peasants. The "Couronian Switzerland" is situated near Kandava, immediately beyond Tukums, and some people like it even more than the Livonian hills. Another attraction of the Castle is the Art Museum, where all Lettish painters are represented and which boasts of one Rembrandt, too. Coming from the Castle you pass the house of the catholic archbishop, and then reach the Saeima building with the Statue of Lāčplēsis (the Bear Slayer), the symbol of power. The Parliament building may be inspected with the permission of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Your impression of the national Lettish spirit

would be incomplete without a visit to the Military Museum in the so-called Powder Tower (a section of the wall of the ancient fortress), where various trophies, flags, etc., are exhibited.

There remain the Municipal Museum with a number of Dutch painters, a local "Tutankhamen" (an Egyptian mummy), the rare publications at the State Library, among them the first copy of the Bible translation by Glück.

In the evening you should see the Opera, which commands a fine orchestra and chorus and several good singers. The performances start at 7 and finish at about 10:30, to give the visitor time for supper at Schwarz's and a round through the "Alhambra" and other "subterranean" places.

Those who have particular sympathies for the Courish Dukes and the French aristocratic emigrants of olden times should go to Jelgava (40 klm. from Riga) by car or train. There you may see the ruins of Jelgava Castle, the ancient residence of the Dukes, an imposing masterpiece by Rastrelli, which has been burnt down by the barbarians of the XX century. The same architect built the Rundale Castle, which serves as the summer residence of the State President. In Jelgava you will find the graves of the Courish Dukes, and the local museum contains numerous curiosities and rarities, such as, for instance, a watch owned by Louis XVIII, who lived for some time in Jelgava as an emigrant and guest of the Duke of Courland. *Fortuna variabilis!*

From Jelgava you could go to Tukums and thence to Ventspils or the Couronian Switzerland. Many other historic places and towns, such as, for instance, the second capital of Courland, Kuldīga, are hidden among the beautiful fields and forests of Courland, but of course they interest only specialists, though simple laymen, too, are enthusiastic about the beauties of "God's Land" (Courland). After all, the traveller should not forget the Lettish people themselves, who well deserve a place in an ethnographic museum. They are the descendants of a very old rustic stock, their language being derived from the Sanscrit in which to-day only Japanese and Indian priests address their prayers to Buddha, and which

stands near to the ancient German and Slavonic idioms.

This nation has now acquired independence, and in spite of its small number (together with the Lithuanians, about 5 million), has produced many famous men whose names are well known in Europe and to whom belong scientists like *Professor K. Balods*, the economist, *Professor Walden*, the chemist, *Professor Endzelins*, the philologist, chess-masters *H. Mattison*, *K. Apshenieks*; politicians *K. Ulmanis*, first prime-minister; *J. Čakste*, the president of the State, *F. Čielens*, the president of the foreign-committee, *F. Wesmanis*, the Speaker of the Saeima, publicists *Dr. M. Walter*, *A. Berg*, financiers *Ringold Kalning*, diplomatists *Z. Meierovics*, generals *Balodis*, *Radzinsh*, Bishops *Irbe* and *Springovics*, gifted painters and academicians, professors *Fedders*, *Huhns*, *Purvits*, singers like *Kaktiņš* and *Mrs. Brechman-Stengel*, sculptors *Bija*, *Zaļkalns*, dramatic artists *L. Stengel*, *M. Leiko*, *E. Smilģis*, *L. Spielberg*, *Anni Simson*, *Lia Mara*, dancers *Rone*, *Lenc*, *Lukom*, poets *Rainis*, *Poruks*, composers *Vītols*, *Dārziņš*, *Melngailis*, and many others. They have operas of their own, such as "Fire and Night" and "Gods and Men" by *Mediņš*, "Bānuta" by the famous master of the organ, *A. Kalniņš*. The high culture of the Lettish intelligentsia enabled them to organise the State organism and its defence. In technical sciences, agriculture, and shipping, the Letts have produced no less important results, of which the flourishing economic life bears ample witness.

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A. Gulbis, Publishers, Riga

Krišjāņa Barona ielā 14.

Collection of Lettish Authors

The Sons of Jacob. By J. Rainis. Translated by Grace L.
Rhys, 1924. London & Toronto. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 7·50

The Builders of New Rome and other Lettish Tales. Rūdolfs
Blaumanis, Jānis Akuraters, Kārlis Skalbe, Jānis Poruks.
Translated by Leslie A. Marshall, 1924. London & Toronto.
J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., New-York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 7·80

LATVIAN ORNAMENTS

Under this title will be published by the States Printing Works of Latvia an edition on the Latvian National Art, which will contain for the most part coloured reproductions. In this edition will be reproduced all the material of the national art which is collected in the ethnographical collection of the Latvian Society in Riga, in the States Historical Museum and in private collections. Every number will give coloured reproductions of national clothes with exact description. Knittings and tissues will be printed on special paper. There will be photographs and drawings of objects of architecture and antiquity found in excavations, and of iron and wood works. Regarding the collected material all the edition will be continued 3—4 years.

General direction and chief redaction of this edition are in the hands of Mr. R. Zariņš, Professor of the Academy of Arts and Mr. M. Siliņš, Director of the Historical Museum.

The purpose of this edition is to satisfy with good reproductions the increased demand for examples of Latvian National Art and to give such material to schools, libraries, artists, manufacturers, craftsmen and to everyone who is interested in Latvian culture. This edition gives documents comparing Latvian National Art with that of other peoples and further material for the investigation of the History of culture.

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